

**From:** Rick Davis  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 10:44am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

As a professional consultant who makes a living developing and implementing Microsoft based solutions for my clients I have to say that having a single, standardized browser is actually in the best monetary interest of my clients for the simple reason that they don't have to pay me to develop and test an Internet based solution across multiple, incompatible browsers.

A browser is similar to a TV -- everyone agrees on the frequencies (standards) and then vendors produce products to take advantage of the standards... and, like it or not, since version 4.0, Microsoft has created the best browser on the market. So I think Microsoft actually did everyone a favor by making a superior product available for free.

Additionally, if you go back and read some PC Week (now eWeek) articles from '96 & '97 you'll see that Netscape was planning on adding operating system features to Netscape in a bid to increase its functionality. Microsoft had a dominant position in the desktop O/S market and needed a browser. Netscape had a dominate browser and needed an O/S. IBM, Novell and Apple had tried unsuccessfully for years to supplant Microsoft and failed -- and believe me, as one who lived through it as a professional, it was due to the inadequacies of their products and not Microsoft's 'strong armed tactics'.

At this point common sense should prevail and show that Microsoft only needed a good browser to send Netscape to the scrap heap of software history -- and that's just what happened.

This case has been a waste of taxpayer's money to the sole benefit of Sun and Oracle. As a tax payer I'd like to know why my money is being used to promote their agenda instead of letting the market speak for itself-- as it clearly has.

I know Microsoft has been found guilty and I disagree with the arguments used to reach the conclusion as they are technically inaccurate... but that's now water under the bridge.

So I urge you to please accept this settlement, quit wasting my money, and get on to prosecuting real criminals.

Sincerely,

Rick Davis  
President  
Davis Computing, Inc.

